

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	: Tomofumi YAMANASHI et al.	Group Art Unit : 2626
Appl. No.	: 10/596,773 (U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/019014)	Examiner: Natalie Lennox
I.A. Filed	: December 22, 2004	Confirmation No.: 1328
For	: VOICE/MUSICAL SOUND ENCODING DEVICE AND VOICE/MUSICAL SOUND ENCODING METHOD	

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Responsive to the mailing of a Final Office Action of November 10, 2009 in the above-captioned application, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for responding thereto runs to February 10, 2010, but in which a response is being filed by the two month response due date running to January 11, 2010 (January 10, 2010 being a Sunday), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.